Dagistheus

(fl. 478/479)

BRIEFING

Dagisthaeus (also Dagistheus, Dagisthaios) was an Ostrogoth in the 5th century.

BIOGRAPHY

Dagisthaeus, Dagistheus and Dagisthaios are the Latin and ancient Greek versions, respectively, of a Gothic name , probably *Dagis-þius.

Dagisthaeus was probably a high-ranking nobleman in Theodoric the Great's Gothic confederation operating in the Balkan Peninsula. In 478/479, Theodoric was involved in military conflicts with another Gothic leader named Theodoric Strabo and the Eastern Roman Empire under Emperor Zeno. In 479, Zeno sent his prefect Adamantius to Epirus to negotiate Theodoric's return to Roman service. An agreement seemed to be reached between Theodoric and Adamantius, which Theodoric intended to seal by sending Dagisthaeus and an Ostrogothic general named Soas as hostages to Adamantius. Ultimately, however, Zeno rejected the agreement.

Dagisthaeus may be the same Dagisthaeus after whom some famous baths in Constantinople, mentioned by John Malalas and Theophanes, were named. He may have been an ancestor of the Roman general Dagisthaeus, who operated in the 6th century.